



AMERICAN COUNCIL OF THE BLIND

1155 15th Street, NW • Suite 1004 • Washington, DC 20005
Telephone (202) 467-5081 • Fax (202) 467-5085 • www.acb.org

Charles Crawford
Executive Director

To:

Magdalie Roman Salas
Office of the Secretary
Federal Communications Commission
445 Twelfth St., SW, TW-A325
Washington, DC 20554

RECEIVED

NOV 13 2000

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

From:

Charles Crawford
Executive Director
American Council of the Blind
1155 15th Street, NW, Suite 1004
Washington, DC 20005

MM Docket No. 99-339

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AMERICAN COUNCIL OF THE BLIND

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Charles Crawford
Executive Director

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NOV 13 2000

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

Before the
FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
Washington, D.C. 20554

In the Matter of

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)
)

MM Docket No. 99-339

Implementation of
Video Description of
Video programming

)
)
)

November 13, 2000

To: The Commission

THE AMERICAN COUNCIL OF THE BLIND'S OPPOSITION TO PETITIONS FOR RECONSIDERATION

The American Council of the Blind has a major interest as a primary beneficiary through our membership in continuing the implementation of the FCC rule and order that reasonably requires video description services as contained in the reference docket number 99-339. By this letter, ACB responds to the request for reconsideration made by certain industry interests and by the National Federation of the Blind.

ACB agrees with the position of the National Coalition for Media Access with respect to the various requests of media interests. Hence, ACB will rely upon your attention to the comments of NCMA rather than repeating the truly reasonable and fair positions taken by the coalition on the matter of those who requested reconsideration. ACB does, however, wish to make the following brief response to the request by NFB for reconsideration.

As you will have noticed by the overwhelming support for video description and its attendant rule and order by the blindness community, the American Council of the Blind finds no reason for the FCC to in effect start all over again per the NFB arguments. ACB includes, for your convenience, hundreds of copies of letters already sent to you in support of video description. ACB postulates

that the NFB distinction between "information" and "entertainment" for the purposes of video description avoids the central issue of information access through the assertion of largely irrelevant distinctions. Moreover, the Federation's principal objections to the rule and order are already being addressed by industry in the matter of scrolling weather-related emergency information and in the matter of the identities of important speakers being displayed at the bottom of the screen.

It is our understanding that one cable company (Time Warner) already on some of its cable systems provides a tone for emergency information, a synthetic voice saying go to a particular channel for information, and finally a synthetic voice on that channel describing the information described on the preceding channel. While this system may require improvements, it clearly shows the technology not only exists, but is actually in use. Hence the Federation's concerns may be more academic than real.

ACB further rejects the arguments of the Federation with regard to any sufficiency of unfairness to require the rule and order process to begin anew, based upon the names of the inaccessibility of speakers appearing at the bottom of a screen. Our reasoning for this position is simple. The relatively easy act of educating news providers to incorporate within their scripts or to voice-over the names of speakers in presentations such as C-SPAN, offers a no-cost solution to what would then become a non-problem.

The American Council of the Blind and blind people all across this nation have applauded, celebrated and eagerly await the implementation of the FCC rule on video description. Let us not delay any further, and let us continue the process that promises a new day of communications for the blind and a fully shared opportunity for all people to access and utilize the most powerful tool of communication of the 20th century—television.

Respectfully submitted by:

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Charles H. Crawford".

Charles H. Crawford
Executive Director

Anne Fesh

From: Carol Ahlvers [Carol@kwu.edu]
Sent: Monday, October 23, 2000 7:28 PM
To: info@acb.org
Subject: Please save the Video Description Service

1165 Columbine Circle
Salina, Kansas 67401

October 30, 2000

Magalie Salas, Secretary
The Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, SW
Washington, KC 20554

Re: Docket No. 99-339

Dear Ms. Salas:

We are writing to you today to ask you to continue your courageous vote requiring the networks to begin providing essential information to people who are legally blind and visually impaired.

My mother is 79 years old and has been legally blind for two decades. Truly, she appreciates watching and understanding television. The video descriptions make all the difference in the world to her enjoying the entertainment. She can enjoy programs with her husband, children, and grandchildren.

Please continue your defense and support of the video description for citizens needing help because of their visual disabilities. I certainly am

"In opposition to petitioners for reconsideration of the reported order on video description."

The video description service is valuable and there is no new evidence or information to support a change in the FCC decision.

I thank you for your consideration. And, I hope my mother enjoys the video description service for many years to come. Yes, we do have family and friends who need this assistance too.

Sincerely yours,

Carol A. Ahlvers, Ph.D.
785-827-6899

RECEIVED
NOV 13 2000
FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

Anne Fesh

From: Angel, Deborah [deborah_angel@city.palo-alto.ca.us]
Sent: Monday, November 06, 2000 10:32 PM
To: 'access@fcc.gov'
Cc: 'info@acb.org'
Subject: Video description, Docket No.99-339

This letter is submitted in regard to docket No. 99-339, with comments "in opposition to petitioners for reconsideration of the reported order on video description".

I am a reference librarian at a public library and my work has brought me into contact with numerous people who are blind and in need of our services such as books on tape and described videos. The idea of video description is very appealing to people who are losing their eyesight as a result of macular degeneration and can no longer enjoy their favorite T.V. news and entertainment programs. I was also talking with a mother who was blind who told me how much she appreciates described videos because she can participate more fully in what her family is watching. Video description would be a boon to this person and her family, and to the many others in the same situation.

I urge the F.C.C. most strongly to continue their innovative and beneficial scheme to introduce video description for television programming. The F.C.C. made the right decision in July 2000, and as far as I know, no new information has emerged that should change that decision.

Deborah Angel

Kenneth Arzarian
5658 Westside Rd.
Friday Harbor, WA 98250
November 2, 2000

Magalie Salas, Secretary
The Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, SW
Washington, D.C. 20554

Docket No. 99-339

My wife, Darlene and I were pleased and excited about the FCC decision to require networks to provide video descriptions of television programs. We appreciate their thoughtfulness for people visually impaired or blind.

My wife is visually impaired and sees only little of the scenes and characters on the television screen. A descriptive narrative will add tremendously to her enjoyment of TV programs. We have watched videotapes with this done and enjoyed them very much. We are looking forward to April 2002 when this will be on all TV programs.

Video descriptions will do for people visually impaired or blind as closed captioning did for people hard of hearing or deaf. Please do not reconsider the ruling and keep the requirement for video descriptions as you have already.

Sincerely

Ken Arzarian

Anne Fesh

From: lynn-tti@juno.com
Sent: Friday, November 10, 2000 7:29 PM
To: access@fcc.gov
Cc: info@acb.org
Subject: Opposition To Reconsideration of reported order on video description

November 10, 2000
To FCC Disability Rights Office:

This letter is in reference to docket number 99-339. I would like to express my appreciation to the Commissioners of the FCC for their courageous vote in 7-99 for providing descriptive video for television programming in the future. I'm sorry to hear of the petitions being submitted for reconsideration of this vote. The National Federation Of The Blind does not speak for all blind in America.

I am 52 years of age and have been blind since infancy. Descriptive video has allowed me the opportunity to keep up with and understand parts of programming which is visually oriented. I have enjoyed descriptive movies such as Homeward Bound, Sister Act One and Two, Apollo 13, etc. Thanks again for the ruling and I'm looking forward to April 2002 when it will be implemented.

Sincerely,

Lynn August

Magalie Salas, Secretary
The Federal Communications Commission
445 12th street, SW
Washington, DC 20554
November 9, 2000

Dear Commissioners and the Secretary of the FCC:

Thank you for your support of video description. The FCC July vote on this issue was a giant step towards equality for all Americans. Thank you for voting in favor of this very important and controversial issue – the FCC commissioners are certainly courageous. I am truly glad the FCC is willing to stand up to corporate America. I support video description on television programming because as a legally blind American I am able to receive crucial and essential information that I could not access in the past.

I have watched several shows on PBS and Movies that have video description in them. This secondary audio programming (SAP) service is wonderful because sighted people do not have to use this service and are not distracted by it. As a legally blind American I have a large amount of sight, I travel without a cane and with special bioptic glasses that may allow me to drive. However, this video description is still very important to me, it allows me to be aware of subtle actions on television programming. It allows me to sit away from a television and reduces that amount of dangerous radiation that television put off. I am looking forward to video description on a network scale in April of 2002.

Recently, I have been informed that there are petitioners who are urging the FCC to turn around their decision on descriptive video. This saddens me. The petitioners are not bringing any new information to the table. Please stand strong in your decision to not let blind and visually impaired Americans become second rate citizens. This letter is in opposition to the petitioners for reconsideration of the reported order of video description. The official docket number is No. 99-339.

Sincerely,

Jonathan Avila
Manager of Training and Technical Staff
Bartimaeus Group

Anne Fesh

From: Diane Ayers [solitude@rjia.net]
Sent: Tuesday, October 31, 2000 8:34 PM
To: info@acb.org
Subject: submitting comments

"IN OPPOSITION TO PETITIONERS FOR RECONSIDERATION OF THE REPORTED ORDER ON VIDEO DESCRIPTION"

Docket No. 99-339

It is truly appreciated by the blind and visually impaired the time, work and effort put forth by the Commissioners of the FCC for their courageous vote requiring the networks to begin providing this essential information service to people who are blind and visually impaired, like myself.

I can't stress enough the importance of having an alternate means of knowing what's happening on TV. I look forward to the day that I can turn on my TV and enjoy TV shows with my family without constantly interrupting them to find out what is going on, in turn, causing them to miss the show because they are giving me a description.

The value of video description is beyond compare to the blind and visually impaired and their families. It allows us the freedom to know that we don't have to ask someone to watch TV with us to know what is going on.

The petitioners have not provided any new information which was not already known at the time the FCC reached its decision and issued the ruling.

This FCC ruling is a vital step in having television that is accessible for blind and visually impaired citizens.

I also know my family unit, which consists of 4 of us are in support of access for video description.

Thank You,
Diane Ayers
P.O. Box 1965
Mt. Airy, NC 27030

Anne Fesh

From: Judy Barnes [judybarnes@earthlink.net]
Sent: Friday, November 03, 2000 8:22 PM
To: info@acb.org
Subject: Fw: Comments re FCC Docket No. 99-339

To: Charles Crawford & Brian Charlson

From: Judith Barnes

Per your recent Urgent Action Alert, which I received this week, I am forwarding for your records a copy of my recent comments to the FCC regarding Docket No. 99-339 on video description.

----- Original Message -----

From: Judy Barnes <judybarnes@earthlink.net>
To: <bkennard@fcc.gov>; <sness@fcc.gov>; <hfurchtg@fcc.gov>;
<mpowell@fcc.gov>; <gtristan@fcc.gov>
Cc: <access@fcc.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, October 31, 2000 6:21 PM
Subject: Comments re FCC Docket No. 99-339

>
> To: FCC Chairman Kennard and fellow Commissioners
>
> Subject: Comments on FCC's promulgated decision on video description:
Docket
> No.
> 99-339
>
> Dear Commissioners,
>
> I wish to submit comments in opposition to the petitioners who are
currently
> urging your
> reconsideration of the reported order on video description.
>
> Although I have followed with interest the subject of including video
> description on commercial and cable programming, this is the first time I
> have
> submitted comments on the subject.
>
> I am 51 years old and have been legally blind since age 12. I grew up on
> television, but not until about 10 years ago, when I was first exposed to
> video description, was I aware exactly how much information I had been
> missing for all these years. For many years now I have been an avid viewer
> of public television and regularly enjoy the audio description added to
> some of the history, drama and nature programming they offer - such as
> American Experience, Mystery, Masterpiece Theater, Nature
> and the wonderful Ken Burns' American History series'.
>
> I was extremely pleased to hear about FCC's ruling to include video
> description on commercial and cable TV stations. I look forward in the
> coming years to a fuller comprehension and appreciation of programming
> presented by commercial media outlets which will result from this added
> feature.
>
> I wish to express my thanks to the FCC for making these farsighted rules
and
> encourage the Commission not to withdraw them.
>
> Finally, I wish to point out that the petitioners who are now urging

> reconsideration of FCC's order have not presented any information which
was
> not already presented at the time of the Commission's original rulemaking
> and therefore do not warrant reconsideration of your original decision.
>
>
> Most Sincerely,
>
>
>
> Judith K. Barnes
> 2680 Fayette Dr. #401
> Mountain View, CA 94040
> 650-949-5789
> judybarnes@earthlink.net
>
>
>
>
>

Anne Fesh

From: Patience Barnes
Sent: Tuesday, November 07, 2000 10:40 AM
To: info@acb.org
Subject: Docket No. 99-339

As requested, we sent the following letter to Magalie Salas and to access@fcc.gov:

We are writing in opposition to the petitioners for reconsideration of the reported order on video description.

We were dismayed to learn of this petition in view of the very positive decision by the Commissioners of the FCC to begin providing video description by April 2002.

Having video description couldn't be more helpful to the blind, and it would relieve our sighted companions of a responsibility that falls upon them. Sometimes they are good describers, and sometimes not. In any case, if anyone else is in the room, it is a distraction for them, and an embarrassment for us.

We understand that the petitioners have not provided any new information that was not known at the time the FCC reached its decision, and

wonder what has prompted their objection?

Please reaffirm your original ruling in the knowledge that all blind and visually-impaired persons will be not only relieved, but grateful for your fair and just decision.

James J. Barnes &

Patience P. Barnes

--

Patience Plummer Barnes

Research Associate

Wabash College

barnesp@wabash.edu

765-362-7664 or 765-361-6319

FAX:765-361-6277

Anne Fesh

From: Robby Barnes [robbly_barnes@hotmail.com]
Sent: Wednesday, November 08, 2000 12:13 AM
To: access@fcc.gov
Cc: info@acb.org
Subject: Re: Official Docket No. 99-339, Comments in opposition to petitioners for reconsideration of the reported order on video description

Robert Barnes
P.O. Box 17138
Seattle, WA 98107

November 7, 2000

Magalie Salas, Secretary
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, SW
Washington, DC 20554

Re: Official Docket No. 99-339,
Comments in opposition to petitioners for reconsideration of the reported
order on video description

Dear FCC commissioners:

I have been severely visually impaired all my life. I have a great deal of difficulty seeing displays on a TV screen. If I do not know what visual images are being presented, it is much more difficult for me to follow the presentations. I would like to express my appreciation for your July ruling requiring television networks to begin providing video descriptions of the key visual elements in television programming starting in April, 2002.

Video description makes it possible for me to enjoy and understand my favorite films, plays and other programs. Although I am able to obtain some films with video description from the library, they are few and far between, and do not generally include the high quality material I am most interested in. I therefore have been looking forward to April, 2002, when I could simply turn on my television set and utilize the video descriptions to understand the visual aspects of the programming.

I have spoken to many other blind and visually impaired people who are similarly excited about the opportunities that video description opens up for us.

I understand that you have received petitions asking you to reconsider your ruling. However, I urge you to take into account that these petitions do not provide any new information which was unknown to you at the time of your decision. I hope you will not disappoint those of us who have been looking forward to more fully participating in the cultural life of our country.

Sincerely yours,

Robert Barnes

Anne Fesh

From: BEN BAZO [bbazo@juno.com]
Sent: Friday, November 10, 2000 12:37 PM
To: access@fcc.gov
Cc: info@acb.org
Subject: In reference to Docket No. 99-339

I am a 58 year old male who has been totally blind since I was 5 years old.

For many years, I was not able to enjoy TV programs to the fullest. Depending only on the sounds of the TV set. Descriptive Video has opened the door to me and other blind people, helping us know what was happening on the screen when there was only silence on the set. I believe that this service makes blind persons able to enjoy TV programs just as sighted persons do. Therefore, I thank you for the ruling of the FCC to bring more programs with narrated description for the blind on public and commercial TV. And, I ask you to disregard the petitions that have been submitted to you from other groups that are against narrated description. We are looking forward to the year 2002 when we can watch TV and fully understand what is happening on the screen and be able to enjoy more programs with narrative description.

On behalf of my organization, "The Northwest Florida Radio Reading Service, INC", a free service for the blind and physically impaired, I thank you for your support of narrative TV.

Sincerely, Bienvenido Bazo, president of NWFRRS, Inc.

October 30, 2000

Magalie Salas, Secretary
The Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, SW
Washington, DC 20554

Dear Ms. Salas:

RE: Docket No. 99-339

In opposition to petitioners for reconsideration of the reported
Order on video description.

I am writing this letter to express my appreciation to the Commissioners of the Federal Communications Commission for their courageous vote requiring the networks to begin providing video description service to people who are blind and visually impaired.

As the director of an agency for the blind and visually impaired I hear daily how someone cannot see the television screen. It is so important for anyone who cannot see the screen to have an alternate means (i.e., video description) for knowing what's happening on the television. I am looking forward to turning on my TV set in April 2002, to enjoy television shows with my family and friends and to see the video description available for people who are blind and visually impaired.

Video description is so valuable for people and the petitioners have not provided any new information, which was not already known at the time the FCC reached its decision and issued the ruling. This is a crucial component of any petition to reconsider.

Sincerely,

Rosalyn Becovsky
Executive Director

Anne Fesh

From: Willie t Berry [mrbandsappel@juno.com]
Sent: Wednesday, November 08, 2000 8:01 PM
To: access@fcc.gov
Cc: info@acb.org
Subject: video description for television programming

To Whom it May Concern:

I'm
writing this letter to express my concerns and gratitude for the July
21st ruling of the Federal Communications Commission on Docket No. 99-339
. Which will require television networks to begin providing video
description of the key visual elements of television programming for the
blind and visual impaired. I'm excited and looking forward to being able
to sit down and enjoy a program with my family. April 2002 can't get
here fast enough for me and my family. Visually impaired viewers.. as
myself support video description and appreciate FCC's July vote. My
concerns are "in opposition to petitioners for reconsideration of the
reported order on video description". Its very important to me and my
family in having television that is accessible for blind and visually
impaired citizens. As for me being visual impaired I appreciate and thank
the Commissioners of the FCC for their courageous vote. I Pray April
2002 isn't a disappointment!

Sincerely,
Willie T. Berry

Anne Fesh

From: Al F Biegler [albiegler1@juno.com]
Sent: Thursday, November 09, 2000 2:45 PM
To: info@acb.org

819 Colusa St.,
Chico, Ca. 95928-4116
(9(530) 343-6141
Nov. 9, 2000

Magalie Salas Secretary:
The Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street S.W.
Washington D.C. 20554

Dear Sir:

This is reference to Docket No. 99-339. I am submitting my opinion in opposition to Petitioners on the groups who want to do away with the video Description for television programing.

I feel Descriptive Video is the best this that has ever happened for the Blind and Visually Impaired. My main experience has been with the Descriptive Video Service and some on channel nine here in our area. Channel nine is an educational station located in Redding Ca. I feel we need more descriptive services. I get rather tired having to ask what is happening during a silent part of a movie.

From my own view I find movies more enjoyable when they have description included. I feel it is the best thing that has ever happened for the blind and visually impaired community and I would encourage every blind and visually impaired person to try it. I feel we should have a right to enjoy movies along with everyone else and discriptive video gives us that right. This Federal Communication Commission ruling is a vital step in having television that is accessible for the blind and visually impaired citizens.

Please do not let the Television and Cable companies take this right away.

Sincerely,

Al Biegler

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Juno now offers FREE Internet Access!

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<http://dl.www.juno.com/get/tagj>.

Anne Fesh

From: RBird20763@aol.com
Sent: Friday, November 03, 2000 8:25
To: access@fcc.gov; info@acb.org
Subject: FCC

Mrs. Gina Bird
6991 York Road
Parma Heights, Ohio

Magalie Salas, Secretary
The Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, SW
Washington, DC 20554

November 02, 2000

Dear Secretary Salas:

I am writing in regard to the recent FCC ruling on video description for television programming, docket # 99-339. First, let me say THANK YOU for your courageous stance. I will be extremely grateful each time I watch a program with my visually impaired husband and will not have to provide a running commentary on what is happening. He will know!

I understand petitions for reconsideration have been submitted by the television, cable and motion picture industries and also the National Federation of the Blind. The petitioners have no new information then that which you have already reviewed and based your decision. Please disregard their efforts and stand firm on your ruling.

Sincerely,

Mrs. Gina Bird

11/6/2000

Anne Fesh

From: RBird20763@aol.com
Sent: Friday, November 03, 2000 8:33
To: access@fcc.gov; info@acb.org
Subject: FCC

Mr. Richard Bird
6991 York Road
Parma Heights, Ohio

Magalie Salas, Secretary
The Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, SW
Washington, DC 20554

November 02, 2000

Dear Secretary Salas:

As a visually impaired person, I was deeply moved by the FCC's recent ruling on video description for television programming, docket # 99-339. Your vote of approval is cause for celebration in the blind community.

I know petitions for reconsideration have been submitted. I oppose the petitions as they bring fourth no new information. The facts remain the same as those you used to issue the ruling. I support the ruling.

Thank You,

Richard L. Bird

11/6/2000

Anne Fesh

From: Jeff Blair [jeffblair@mindspring.com]
Sent: Friday, November 10, 2000 1:04 PM
To: access@fcc.gov
Cc: info@acb.org
Subject: Docket No. 99-339

To Whom it May Concern at the FCC:

I am a healthcare information system professional who is totally blind. I work very hard to be as self sufficient and independent as a blind person can be. For this reason I was especially pleased when I learned about the July 21st FCC ruling to provide video description for television programming.

I am very concerned to learn that there are some organizations that are petitioning the FCC to reconsider the July 21st ruling. I am writing this note to you to urge you to retain this ruling. The idea that I might be able to watch commercial television programs by myself without the assistance of a friend or relative to describe what is not being spoken is tremendously exciting. There are few things that can be as liberating to a blind person as descriptive video programming.

Thank you for your consideration.

Jeff Blair

Jeff Blair
Vice President, Medical Records Institute
505-856-9167
505-856-9170 (fax)
jeffblair@medrecinst.com

Anne Fesh

From: catnip [catlover@tabletoptelephone.com]
Sent: Tuesday, November 07, 2000 5:08 PM
To: access@fcc.gov
Cc: info@acb.org
Subject: Comments RE Document 99-339

This letter is being submitted in opposition to petitions for reconsideration of the reported order on video description. First of all, let me say I was so delighted to learn that this document was even brought up for consideration and I want to thank the Commission for its support of this issue.

While I was not surprised to learn that there was opposition from groups like movie makers, television producers and cable companies, I must say I was shocked and saddened to learn that persons from the National Federation of the Blind are apparently also in opposition. Perhaps they consider themselves the "Super Blind" who do not need to have the added benefit of knowing what persons look like and their actions. I do!! I have been most appreciative of the descriptive video on some of the National Public Television programs as well as the movies made available to me in a form allowing me some equality with my sighted friends in knowing what is going on in a particular program. The enactment of this ruling is no less needed than that which provided visual captions for the deaf.

It is my understanding that the petitions to reconsider this ruling have not brought forth anything new that was not already known at the time of the ruling.

Again, my deepest thanks for your July ruling and I trust it will remain in effect so that we who are blind might enjoy more fully our television programs and movies.

Sincerely,

Sharon Booker

Federal Communications Commission
445 12th St., SW
Washington DC 20554

Regarding Docket No. 99-339, this letter is submitted IN OPPOSITION TO
PETITIONERS FOR RECONSIDERATION OF THE REPORTED ORDER ON VIDEO
DESCRIPTION


Dear Commissioners;

I applaud your progressive action in your July 21st ruling to provide video description for television programming. I staunchly support video description, and I believe this ruling should stand. Your votes for this ruling, which requires the networks to begin providing this essential information service to people like myself who are blind and visually impaired, are much appreciated. These comments are being submitted in vehement opposition to petitioners for reconsideration.

It is extremely important for anyone who cannot see the screen to have an alternate means (i.e. video description) for knowing what's happening on the television. I have enjoyed video description in the past, both on my local public television station and in movies I have rented. Actually, I have been looking forward to turning on my television in April 2002, and finally being able to hear what I am missing. I look forward to being able to enjoy TV entertainment with my family and friends, without asking several times throughout the program (especially during a "quiet" scene), "What is going on?".

I think the value of video description is obvious. I am concerned that the petitioners to reconsider have not provided any new information which was not already known at the time the FCC reached its decision and issued the ruling. I am forced to wonder why the objections to the July 21st ruling are even being entertained

Thank you for your time and your consideration.



Barbara A. Borgmeyer

607 St. Stephen Lane
St. Charles MO 63301
ph: (636) 940-8877

Anne Fesh

From: grboucher@att.net
Sent: Monday, October 30, 2000 11:49 PM
To: info@acb.org

Gerard Boucher
65 Hilldale Avenue
Haverhill, MA 01832-3829
Tel. 978-521-3982
e-mail <grboucher@worldnet.att.net>

October 30/00

The Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, SW
Washington, DC 20554

To: Secretary, Magalie Salas.
RE: Video Descriptive Television. (Official Filings {Docket No. 99-339})

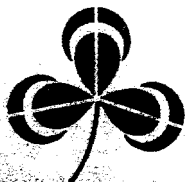
Dear Ms. Salas,

I want to thank you and I appreciate the Commissioners of the FCC, for their courageous vote requiring the networks to begin providing this essential information service to people who are blind and visually impaired.

However, this will serve the persons who cannot see the screen to have an alternate means (i.e., video description) for knowing what's happening on the television. Whereas, we have enjoyed video description in the past. Whereas, and some of us been looking forward to turning the TV set on, to enjoy television shows with our family and friends. Whereas, to use the video description to help us understand the visual aspects of the programming.

Therefore, this video descriptive TV would not just give us the awareness of activities going on in the program, but it would omit the comfort and relaxation for people with vision, at the same time giving us blind people the visual actions and not interrupting others from watching. Consequently, there are some of us who live alone and do not have the pleasure of enjoying these visual programs. Also, the petitioners have not provided any new information which have not already known at the time the FCC reached its decision and issued the ruling. Please, this is a crucial component of any petition to reconsider. Thank you all very much for your time and effort.
Sincerely,

Gerard R. Boucher, Vice Pres. of Mass. Blinded Vets Ass.
Ps. and/or cc.
"In opposition to petitioners for reconsideration of the reported order on Video Description"



**CLOVERHOOK CENTER
FOR THE BLIND**

Jeffrey D. Brasie
President

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Vincent Salerno

James L. Turner

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November 1, 2000

Ms. Magalie Salas

Secretary

The Federal Communications Commission

445 12th Street, Southwest

Washington, D.C. 20554

SUBJECT: Docket Number 99-339

Dear Ms. Salas:

I recently noted this past July the Federal Communications Commission initiated a ruling to require television networks begin providing video description for the blind and visually impaired by April 2002.

As the President of one of the nation's oldest, established, and multi-site (Ohio and Tennessee) organizations serving the visually impaired, *I respectfully request you decline any petitioner opposition for the reported FCC order on video description.*

This progressive movement by the Commissioners, is indeed an important step in serving Americans with visual impairments and further enforcing the Americans with Disabilities Act.

Should you have any questions, please feel free to contact me directly.

Respectfully,

Jeffrey D. Brasie
President

Copy: Vice Presidents (w/incoming)

J. D. Armstrong

Jan K. Danner

Susan Winkler-Larkin

Leon Loewenstine, II

Charles Crawford, Executive Director, American Council for the Blind, 1155 15th Street, Northwest, No. 1004, Washington, D.C. 20005

